

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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13

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W

----- 036256

O R 041105Z MAY 74 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6002

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 6334

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IOP/FW

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: KHMER SITUATIONER

1. GOVERNMENT DEFENDERS AT ISOLATED LOVEK 33 KILOMETERS  
NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH THURSDAY WITHDREW FROM THE MILITARY  
TRAINING CENTER THERE AND MOVED TO THE MAIN BASE UNDER  
HEAVY COMMUNIST PRESSURE. COMMUNIST SHELLING DURING THE  
ATTACK SET ABLAZE AN AMMUNITION DUMP WHICH BURNED FOR  
SEVERAL HOURS. KHMER AIR FORCE T-28'S ARE FLYING CLOSE  
COMBAT SUPPORT MISSIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT SIDE.

2. COMMUNIST PRESSURE AGAINST THE LOWER PORTION OF  
ROUTE 4, THE HIGHWAY FROM PHNOM PENH TO THE SEA, INCREASED  
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY AS FOUR SMALL GOVERNMENT OUTPOSTS  
BETWEEN 20 AND 30 KILOMETERS TO THE NORTHEAST OF KOMPONG  
SOM WERE EVACUATED AND THREE OTHER POSITIONS WERE  
SURROUNDED. MOST OF THE RETIRING GOVERNMENT TROOPS HAVE  
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GATHERED AT THE NOW-ISOLATED DEFENSIVE POSITION AT VEAL

RENH WHICH CAME UNDER HEAVY COMMUNIST ATTACK DURING THE NIGHT FRIDAY. GOVERNMENT FORCES WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE OF KAMPOT HAVE BEGUN TO ARRIVE IN THE LOWER ROUTE 4 AREA TO RELIEVE THE COMMUNIST PRESSURE AGAINST THE HIGHWAY POSITIONS.

3. THERE WERE NO COMMUNIST GROUND INITIATIVES IN THE KAMPOT AREA FRIDAY BUT 30 ENEMY MORTAR SHELLS THURSDAY AND FRIDAY NIGHTS AGAINST THE TOWN KILLED 13 CIVILIANS AND WOUNDED 74 OTHERS. FANK TOOK LIGHT CASUALTIES IN THE SAME ATTACKS. IN PERIMETER EXPANSION OPERATIONS, FANK UNITS MOVED FURTHER NORTH OF THE RAILROAD TRACKS FRIDAY KILLING 7 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS WITH ONLY LIGHT CASUALTIES IN THEIR OWN RANKS. TO THE SOUTHEAST, GOVERNMENT TROOPS FURTHER SECURED THEIR CONTROL OF THE VITAL RIVER SUPPLY ROUTE FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND TO KAMPOT WITH A ONE-KILOMETER PUSH TO THE EAST. CONVOYAS ARE NOW MOVING WITHOUT INCIDENT UP AND DOWN THE RIVER CHANNEL.

4. THE SITUATION WAS GENERALLY QUIET AT PREY VENG FRIDAY WITH FANK PATROL ACTIONS EAST AND SOUTH OF THE CITY RESULTING IN LIGHT FANK CASUALTIES. ENEMY LOSSES WERE NOT KNOWN. LIGHT SHELLING ATTACKS AGAINST THE CITY CAUSED LITTLE DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES.

5. GOVERNMENT FORCES CONTINUED TO PUSH NORTHWARDS FROM KRUOS ON ROUTE 5 FRIDAY ADVANCING ALMOST ONE KILOMETER. EIGHT ENEMY SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED KILLED AND SEVERAL WEAPONS AND STOCKS OF AMMUNITION WERE CAPTURED. A SEVENTH DIVISION POSITON WEST OF KRUOS CAME UNDER ATTACK FRIDAY BUT RESULTS OF THE ENGAGEMENT ARE NOT KNOWN. OTHER CONTACTS WERE REPORTED WITH THE ENEMY AT KMOMPONG CHHNANG, KOMPONG THOM, TAKEO AND IN THE BASSAC AREA SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH WITH A TOTAL OF 8 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS REPORTED KILLED. AND A FIRST DIVISION OUTPOST SOUTH OF SIEMREAP KANDAL ON ROUTE 2 REPULSED A COMMUNIST ATTACK KILLING 7 OF THE ENEMY WITH ONLY LIGHT GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES.

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